

Grammar L4GLO6

Reported Speech

Learning Outcome 6: Reported speech (range of tenses)

NOTICING A Read the sentences. Answer the questions below.

1. She told me she traveled a lot in her job.
2. Rita said she'd hurt her leg badly.
3. He said he'd tried lots of different pizzas before trying this one, which was his favorite.
4. They asked if it had been raining in London today.
5. Khaled said he'd worked as a salesman before becoming a sales executive.
6. My sister told me she was going to her English lesson this afternoon.

Write the correct numbers. Which sentence(s) report information about ...

- a. people's routines? _____
- b. a single action in the past? _____
- c. two events that happened in the past? _____ , _____
- d. an ongoing situation in the past? _____
- e. people's future plans? _____

Reported Speech

There are two ways to tell someone what someone else said:

You can use direct speech, e.g. *"The fair is going very well," said Ahmed.*

Or you can use reported speech, e.g. *Ahmed said that the fair was going well.*

In reported speech, you usually use a tense which is 'further back' in the past (e.g. *was going*) than the tense the speaker used (e.g. *is going*).

When you report *yes/no* questions from direct speech, you do the same, but add *if* to the question, e.g.

Direct speech: *"Is the fair going well?" Fatima asked.*

Reported speech: *Fatima asked if the fair was going well.*

B Read the examples of direct speech and then complete the sentences that report them.

1. Direct speech: "I studied business before getting a job in marketing," Faisal told me.

Reported speech: Faisal told me that he _____.

2. Direct speech: "I usually get up at about 7 o'clock," Noor said.

Reported speech: Noor said that she _____.

3. Direct speech: "My friends are going to the beach at the weekend to relax," my cousin said.

Reported speech: My cousin said that his friends _____.

4. Direct speech: "We drove to the restaurant and then we realized that it was closed," said Hamed.

Reported speech: Hamed said that they _____.

C Write a question to ask a partner about each of the things below:

1. his/her routine
2. something that he/she did in the past
3. an ongoing situation that he/she experienced in the past
4. his/her future plans.

D Work in pairs. Take turns asking and answering your questions from exercise C. Make notes on your partner's answers. Then use your partner's answers to report what he/she said with reported speech.
